

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA  
BUTTE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

OWEN DAVID JAMES,

Defendant.

CR 24–19–BU–DLC

ORDER

Before the Court is United States Magistrate Judge Kathleen L. DeSoto’s Findings & Recommendation Concerning Plea. (Doc. 91.) Because neither party objected, they are not entitled to *de novo* review. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); *United States v. Reyna-Tapia*, 328 F.3d 1114, 1121 (9th Cir. 2003). Therefore, the Court reviews the Findings and Recommendation for clear error. *McDonnell Douglas Corp. v. Commodore Bus. Mach., Inc.*, 656 F.2d 1309, 1313 (9th Cir. 1981). Clear error exists if the Court is left with a “definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been committed.” *United States v. Syrax*, 235 F.3d 422, 427 (9th Cir. 2000).

James is charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846 (Count 1), one count of possession with intent to distribute controlled substances, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2 (Count 2), and one count of possession

of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)(i) (Count 3) as set forth in the Indictment. (Doc. 1.) Judge DeSoto recommends that this Court accept James's guilty plea as to Count 1 after he appeared before her pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11. The Court finds no clear error in Judge DeSoto's Findings and Recommendation and adopts them in full, including the recommendation to defer acceptance of the Plea Agreement until sentencing when the Court will have reviewed the Plea Agreement and Presentence Investigation Report.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that Judge DeSoto's Findings and Recommendation (Doc. 91) is ADOPTED in full.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that James's motion to change plea (Doc. 79) is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that James is adjudged guilty as charged in Count 1 of the Indictment.

DATED this 10th day of December, 2024.



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Dana L. Christensen, District Judge  
United States District Court

